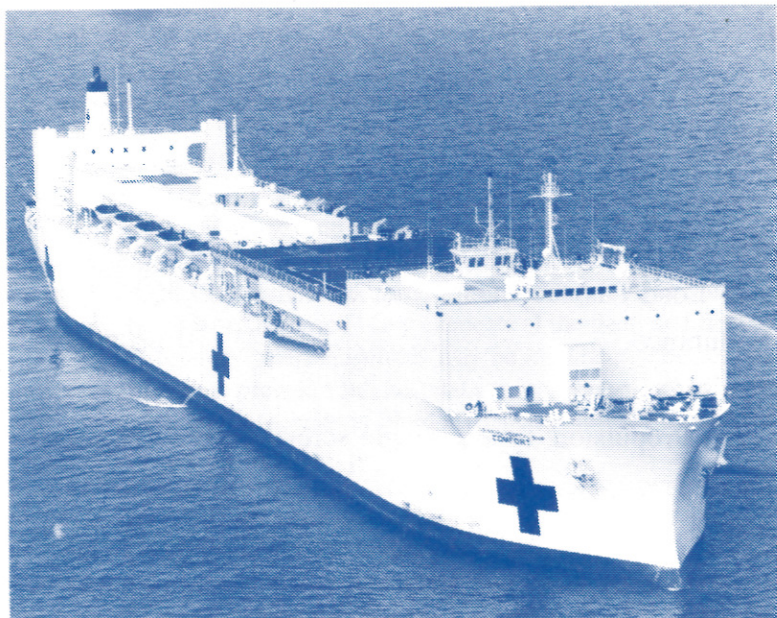


# **Military Sealift Command**

Washington, D.C. 20398-5100



**WELCOME ABOARD  
USNS COMFORT  
(T-AH 20)**



## USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20)

### SHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Overall Length .....	894 feet
Beam .....	105 feet 9 inches
Draft, Full Load .....	32 feet 9 inches
Full Load Displacement.....	69,360 Long Tons
Endurance .....	13,420 nautical miles
Cruising Speed.....	17.5 knots
Main Propulsion Type ...	Single screw, geared steam turbine
Crew Size .....	62
Medical Military Crew Size .....	1,232
Converted by National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. San Diego, California .....	1987
Ship Sponsor.....	Mrs. William M. Narva
Naming Ceremony.....	15 August 1987

**U**NS Comfort (T-AH 20) is the second Mercy Class hospital ship to join the fleet. A converted San Clemente class tanker, she was delivered to the Navy on Dec. 1, 1987, and assigned to the Military Sealift Command to operate. She is the third hospital ship to bear the name. Previous Comforts (AH-3 and AH-6) distinguished themselves in service during the World Wars. AH-6 operated throughout World War II with a Navy crew and Army medical personnel. She was awarded two battle stars. Today's Comfort is crewed by civilian mariners with the Medical Treatment Facility staffed with medical and non-medical active duty Navy personnel.

The ship will operate in two distinct statuses. Normally she will be in reduced operating status. During this status she will be at her layberth and maintained by a small nucleus crew of civilian mariners. A cadre crew of forty medical and non-medical Navy personnel under an officer in charge will maintain the readiness of the Medical Treatment Facility. When required, Comfort can transition to full operating status within five days. The civilian mariner crew will increase to about 70 and the Medical Treatment Facility to about 1,200. The augmenting Navy personnel will be provided by the Naval Medical Command from its National Capital Region activities in the Baltimore-Washington area and from medical facilities in the Middle Atlantic Region along the East Coast.

The primary mission of the ship is to provide a mobile, flexible, rapidly responsive afloat medical capability, to provide acute medical and surgical care in support of amphibious task forces, Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force elements, forward deployed Navy elements of the fleet, and fleet activities located in areas where hostilities may be imminent. The ship has a secondary mission to provide a full hospital service asset available for use by other U.S. government agencies involved in support of disaster relief operations worldwide.

Comfort is steam turbine powered producing 24,000 shaft horsepower to a single screw designed to minimize vibration. To support the Medical Treatment Facility, four evaporators are provided to produce 300,000 gallons of fresh water daily. Three diesel generators produce up to 6,000 kilowatts of power while a single emergency generator is available to provide 1,500 kilowatts. The ship is maintained at a comfortable temperature by three 400 ton air conditioning units.

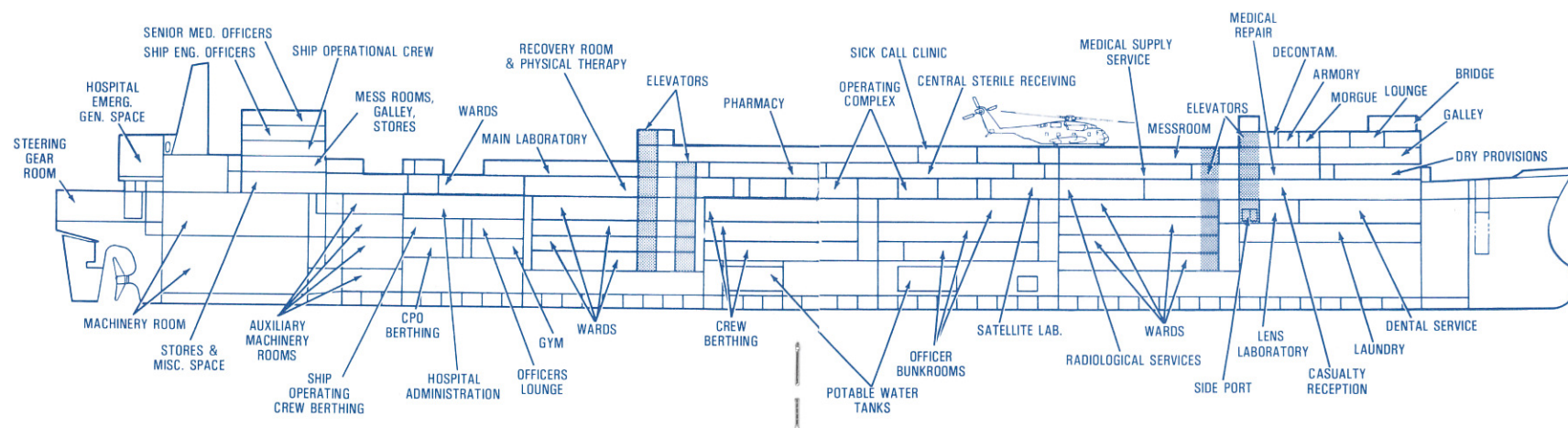
The 1,000 bed Medical Treatment Facility includes 50 trauma stations in a casualty receiving area; twelve operating rooms; a 20 bed recovery room; 80 intensive care beds; and 16 intermediate, light, and limited care wards. Sophisticated radiology, laboratory, and pharmacy services are provided that include computerized tomography, a blood bank, and intravenous additives.

Support services include one of the largest galleys afloat to feed crew and patients, a plant to produce liquid oxygen for distribution to patient care areas, and supply operations to support medical and ship operations. Additional services include comprehensive dental care, burn treatment, physical therapy, and lens fabrication capabilities. Designed to accept an average of 200 casualties every twenty four hours, the facility offers a broad range of medical and surgical capabilities in support of its mission.



# USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20)

## INBOARD PROFILE



## DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

- USNS Comfort is the third largest class of ship in the Navy, after aircraft carriers and helicopter carriers.
- The structure is equivalent to a ten story building and the distance from the mast to the water line is 124' when the ship is fully loaded.
- The ship is about as long as three football fields (894').
- The ship's screw (propeller) weighs 53 tons and is designed to offset a displacement of 39,300 tons of water as the ship moves through the sea.
- The galley (cafeteria) can feed up to 2,500 people in two hours, three times a day, and is the largest in the Navy. The mess deck seats 500 people at a time.
- The helo deck can accommodate the largest helicopter the military uses (CH-53) and can carry two for extended periods of time.
- The 35,000 tons of sea water used to stabilize the ship not only weigh more than the ship itself, but are equal to 89% of the displacement of a fully-loaded amphibious assault ship.
- Each arm of the six red crosses on the sides of the ship is 27' across.
- Distilling plants turn 150,000 gallons of sea water a day into fresh water.
- The laundry facility can clean 56 tons of laundry a week.
- Heat and smoke sensors are located in every compartment, with a central control to monitor changes in temperature.
- The ship carries eight life boats (two capable of evacuating 105 people and six capable of evacuating 112 people) and 84 life rafts, each capable of evacuating 25 people.

## INTERESTING MEDICAL TRIVIA

- At any given time, the hospital ship carries \$4.5 million in medical supplies.
- Over 20,000 small medical instruments, from scalpels to operating microscopes, are stocked.
- If you unrolled all the gauze on the ship, it would be about seven miles long.
- Blanket warmers--large medical heating units--are used to warm sheets and blankets for patients and to heat sterile water and medical solutions for surgery.
- The nine elevators on the ship can each carry 25 individuals or six patients on stretchers.
- Oxygen-producing plants take regular air, compress it, and run it through a refrigeration unit. The unit then separates it into liquid oxygen at -297.3° and liquid nitrogen at -320.5°. The nitrogen is dispensed back to the system, and the liquid oxygen is kept in a storage tank where it can be heated to produce pure oxygen for use in the trauma facility.
- Four types of blood are available through the blood bank: refrigerated, frozen, reconstituted, and fresh.

## MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY (MTF)

The USNS COMFORT Medical Treatment Facility is one of the largest trauma facilities in the United States and offers a spectrum of medical services to satisfy acute medical requirements. Patients arrive aboard by helicopter or small boat and are taken to a casualty reception area for assessing medical treatment. From there, they would proceed to either surgery or other treatment facility. Patients would be admitted to one of 16 wards.

Core components of the ship's medical services include:

- Surgical Facilities
  - 12 Operating Rooms
  - 20-bed Recovery Room
  - Full Anesthesiology
  - Capability to perform:
    - General Surgery
    - Dental Surgery:
    - Ophthalmic Surgery
    - Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery
    - Ear/Nose/Throat Surgery
    - Obstetrics and Gynecology Surgery
    - Urology Surgery
    - Plastic Surgery
- Non-Surgical Treatment
  - Internal Medicine
  - Psychology
  - Dermatology
  - Respiratory Therapy
- Triage
  - 50-bed Casualty Reception Area
  - 2 Decontamination Units for patients exposed to chemical, biological or radioactive agents
- Support Services
  - Prosthetics
  - Radiology
  - Lens Fabrication
  - Pharmacy
  - Laboratory
  - Blood Bank
  - Physical Therapy (for burn patients)
  - Medical Equipment Repair
  - Medical Supply
- Special Features
  - Helicopter Deck to receive patients and supplies
  - Patient Lift for receiving patients from small boats
  - Oxygen-producing plant
  - 9 elevators for patient movement
  - Extensive ramping and wide passageways (halls)



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